



# Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

**Rich Miller**  
**State Fire Marshal**

Bureau of Fire Services  
3101 Technology Blvd. Suite H  
Lansing, MI 48910

(517) 241-8847  
[www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs)

## MISSION

To provide for the protection of persons and property from exposure to the dangers of fire through inspection and fire prevention and to serve the training needs of over 30,000 fire fighters in the state of Michigan.

April 2015

Members of the Michigan Fire Service Community:

What do we think about when we hear the word “arson?” Do words like profit, malice, intent, revenge, destruction and fatality, come to mind?

Arson is a felony. In April 2013, Michigan changed its arson laws by boosting maximum penalties for more serious offenses while increasing prosecutors’ options in charging the crime. Michigan law became closer to federal statutes, holding arson up to the standard of other violent crimes.

Arson is not just a property crime. It is a crime of violence committed by individuals who are often motivated by anger or desperation. Some arsonists fraudulently attempt to free themselves from financial loss or obligation, ironically believing they can get away with financial gain. Arson is not the way out for an individual who has monetary ruin concerning their property or are in a domestic confrontation.

Devastation in the aftermath of arson is far-reaching. We all pay for crimes of arson. Those directly affected have their lives changed forever. Communities are robbed of valuable assets, lives, and property.

Arsons are often difficult to investigate and prosecute. With Arson Awareness Week coming up May 3-9, 2015, I urge you to continue to work closely with investigators. Arson investigations start with you, the first responders on the scene who make those first keen observations.

Arson prevention requires all of us to become more involved in the communities we serve. Ongoing education, school involvement and neighborhood watch programs are great places to start because safety is our business.

Regards,

Richard W. Miller  
State Fire Marshal

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Staff Updates	3
Plan Review Division	
Bureau of Fire Services Represented at Health Facilities Planning Seminar	4
BFS Plan Review Mailing Update	4
BFS Plan Review Webpage Updates	4
Fire Safety Codes	
Proposed Rule Updates	5
Field Services	
Postsecondary Educational Institution Requirements	5
Fire Fighter Training Division	
County Fund Allocation & Non IMS County Training Fund Application	6
Instructor and Grant Payments	6
IMS Questions - Password Resets	6
New SMOKE System to Replace IMS	7
Course Paperwork Submittal	7
NFIRS	7
Michigan Fire Service Directory	8
Storage Tank Division	
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) Inspector Territories & Process Improvements	8
Fireworks Program	
Fireworks Applications and Process Improvements	9
Fire Service In the News	
Walker Fire Dept. Station Hosts Operation Save a Life	9-10
Staying Warm While Staying Safe	11
Free smoke detector initiative kicks off in Muskegon County	11
Other News	
Arson Reward Program	11-12
International Code Council (ICC)	13
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	13
Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) Fall Conference	14
MABAS Interstate Mutual Aid Agreement	14
Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)	15
XL GAP Research Update – Counterfeit Sprinklers	15
Walter Kidde Recall Notice – Fire Extinguishers	15
Possible Fire Risk of Yellow Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing	16
Submission of Articles	16

# STAFF UPDATES

## New BFS Employees



### **Fred Bennett, Storage Tank Division – Region 4**

Fred joined the BFS, Storage Tank Division on March 16, 2015, as a hazardous materials storage inspector. He will be responsible for inspecting approximately nine counties in the center of the Lower Peninsula for inspection of flammable and combustible liquid storage in aboveground and underground tanks. Fred has 14 years of experience in the Propane industry. His knowledge of propane storage, equipment and computers will be a great asset to our program and the State of Michigan.

## Other Staff Updates



### **Gary Crum, Fire Fighter Training Division**

Gary will be retiring from the BFS on June 18, 2015. He was hired as a region supervisor by the Bureau in December 2000 and served the training division as a contract coordinator for 12 years. We thank Gary for all his hard work and dedication to the Bureau and he will be missed. Best wishes on a well-deserved retirement.

### **Tom Spanan, Field Services, Grand Rapids Region**

Tom retired on March 28, 2015, from the BFS after being employed with the State of Michigan for 42 years.

Tom worked as a fire safety inspector in Bureau's Grand Rapids Region and served an active role mentoring fellow colleagues and assisting with the training of new fire inspectors. He demonstrated a high standard of professionalism, as documented by frequent compliments from administrators, contractors, licensing agents, as well as fellow fire safety professionals. Tom's knowledge and experience was an asset to the Bureau and he will be missed.

# PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

## Bureau of Fire Services Represented at Health Facilities Planning Seminar

The Health Facilities Planning Seminar is held each year by AIA of Michigan and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Health Care Services to provide architects, engineers, healthcare executives and other interested professionals with the latest available information for planning, designing, constructing and maintaining health facilities.

Jim Elenbaas, BFS Gaylord Region supervisor, was a presenter at the Health Facilities Planning Seminar this year on March 26-27, 2015. The Bureau participates in many seminars throughout the state to provide fire safety compliance information for a variety of organizations. This conference focused on new facility construction. The information presented highlighted the changes with the adoption of the 2012 Edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code as part of the 2014 Health Care Facility Fire Safety Rules.

## BFS Plan Review Mailing Update

BFS requires all correspondence and plans to be submitted to one of the mailing addresses noted below. **Note:** This includes architectural plans or shop drawings that would have fees enclosed. To submit plans, you may use form [BFS-979](#) (instructions are included on page 2 of the form).

### U.S. Postal Service

LARA/BFS  
Attn: Plan Review Division  
P.O. Box 30700  
Lansing, MI 48909

### Courier other than the U.S. Postal Service

LARA/BFS  
Attn: Plan Review Division  
525 W. Allegan Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing, MI 48909

Once you have received a project number, you may submit payments online by credit card using a valid Visa, MasterCard, Discover or debit card (**Note:** Debit cards must have a Visa, MasterCard or Discover logo on the card) at: <https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/deleg/planreview>.

## BFS Plan Review Webpage Updates

The BFS is working on updating and adding new information on the Plan Review webpage. Some new items you may find on the website include:

- Updated [Fire Marshal Bulletin - 2](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions, School Safety Inspections for Existing K-12 Schools](#).
- NEW [Fire Marshal Bulletin - 14](#), which addresses postsecondary education institutions instructional staff training, fire drills and reporting requirements. It also addresses K-12 and [Frequently Asked Questions, Postsecondary Fire Safety Drill Requirements – Instructional Staff Training, Reporting and Requirements](#).
- NEW [K-12 Classroom Door Latch Devices Violate School Fire Safety Rules](#)

Stay tuned to [www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs) for more updates to the Plan Review webpage.

# FIRE SAFETY CODES

## Proposed Rule Updates

Please look for changes to the following rules later this year:

- [New and Existing School, College and University Fire Safety](#) - Completing Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR).
- [Dormitory Fire Safety for Schools, Colleges, and Universities](#) - Completing RIS for ORR.
- [New and Existing Penal Institutions Fire Safety](#) - the ad hoc committee finalized the draft on Friday, March 27, 2015 and has been sent to ORR for review.
- [Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules](#) – the rules are pending approval by the FFTC, once approved the RIS will be completed and submitted to ORR.

You can also view these proposed rule changes on the [Public Acts and Administrative Rules](#) page on the Bureau website.

# FIELD SERVICES

## Postsecondary Educational Institution Requirements

New fire safety drill requirements for postsecondary schools took effect on March 31, 2015 under Public Act 481 of 2014 which was signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder in January. Beginning in 2016, schools are required to submit completed certification forms to the Bureau on or before January 10 of each year, certifying that their institution has complied with the requirements for the preceding calendar year.

PA 481 of 2014 amends the Fire Prevention Code, [PA 207 of 1941](#), by prescribing specific drill requirements for colleges and universities and removes previous requirements of monthly fire drills, the minimum of eight dormitory fire drills and two tornado safety drills each school year.

### New Requirements:

Key points of the law are that postsecondary education institutions shall:

- ensure that all instructional staff are trained in fire drill procedures before the beginning of each academic year
- ensure unrestricted emergency egress from each dormitory while occupied by students
- hold all of the following fire drills each year and keep a record of those drills:
  - conduct one fire drill in the fall semester within 21 days after the start of classes
  - conduct one fire drill in the spring semester
  - conduct one fire drill in the summer semester, if the dormitory is occupied by students during that semester.
  - at least one of these fire drills shall be held while school is in session and between sunset and sunrise
- Prepare and retain a record of each of the drills described
- Beginning in 2016, submit the certification form of compliance to the Bureau on or before January 10 of each year, for the preceding year

You may find more information on forms, bulletins and frequently asked questions regarding amended 207 of 1941 on the [Field Services](#) webpage, School Safety Inspections.

# FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING DIVISION

## County Fund Allocation & Non IMS County Training Fund Application

According to Firefighters Training Council Act, PA 291 of 1966, [MCL 29.374\(2\)](#) as amended, county funding has been allocated based on the formula defined in the Act. Each county training chairperson surveys their county training needs. The allocation is recommended to be used for courses listed in the Information Management System ([IMS](#)).

Fireworks safety funds may be used to cover training costs for courses or programs that the FFTD doesn't offer on IMS (i.e. guest speakers, workshops and leadership programs, RIT, ice rescue, and PADI open water rescue). Contact your region supervisor for a current listing of new courses when considering applying for a non-IMS course.

If you chose to use your county funds for a course not listed in the IMS system, complete the Non IMS County Training Fund Application ([BFS-201](#)). Completed application forms must be submitted to your region coordinator either by fax or email to Region 1 Coordinator Dan Hammerberg or Region 2 Coordinator Gary Crum. **Reminder:** sharing county allocations with other counties *is permissible*. If funding is to be shared, the CTC simply needs to contact the region supervisor so the funds can be transferred.

## Instructor and Grant Payments

In order for instructors and grant recipients to receive payments they must:

- Register as a vendor with the State of Michigan at [www.cpexpress.state.mi.us](http://www.cpexpress.state.mi.us).
- Complete the form [BFS - 250A](#).
- Submit any associated receipts for items listed on this form. The State funding total shown is the maximum amount that the FFTC will approve for each class or grant request. Please note: The State of Michigan retains the right to audit any funded course using State of Michigan funds.
- Any miscellaneous expenses must be listed in the assigned boxes and will reduce the total amount available in the person/institution payment boxes to the left.
- The box labeled total of State funds must not exceed the State funding total box.

This form is available on the Bureau website at [www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs). If you have any questions contact BreeAnn Hooker at by telephone at 517-241-0686 or by e-mail at [hookerb@michigan.gov](mailto:hookerb@michigan.gov).

## IMS Questions, Password Resets?

Contact the following Bureau staff:

Region 1 Coordinator	Region 2 Coordinator
Dan Hammerberg, <a href="mailto:HammerbergD@michigan.gov">HammerbergD@michigan.gov</a> Phone: 906-786-0760 Fax: 906-233-9706	Gary Crum, <a href="mailto:Crumg@michigan.gov">Crumg@michigan.gov</a> Phone: 616-447-2689 Fax: 517-616-447-2668





## New SMOKE System to Replace IMS

In May 2015, a new database system will be implemented for the Bureau of Fire Services, Fire Fighter Training Division. The database system will be called System Maintenance of Knowledge and Education (SMOKE). This new database system will replace the Information Management System (IMS). Please note the following important information about the new system when it is implemented:

- The system will be user friendly.
- There will be training by webinar and a Power Point.
- You will log in with your PIN or a unique email address.
- Your email address should be a work or personal email accessible to the user only.
- When logging into the system for the first time you will be asked to verify your personal information.
- Fire chiefs will be asked annually to verify their department's information.

## Course Paperwork Submittal

Training coordinators, course managers and course instructors are submitting IMS course paperwork that is often inaccurate or incomplete.

Here are examples of errors or omissions that need to be corrected:

- Course scan sheet not properly completed by the student.
- Course manager/instructor not ensuring student PIN is entered accurately.
- Course scan sheet is missing instructor initials along with missing course grade.
- Course and grant worksheet (BFS-250A) is missing with submission of course paperwork.

In order to process all course paperwork in a timely manner, please ensure the required documentation that you submit is accurate and complete.

# NFIRS



## National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Updates

The Bureau's website has been updated to include a new [National Fire Incident Reporting System](#) webpage. The NFIRS webpage will include new information under the headings noted below. Please refer to the Bureau website for new and updated information.

- Latest news on NFIRS
- What you need to know
- Compliance/Statistics
- USFA – NFIRS Resources

# MICHIGAN FIRE SERVICE DIRECTORY

## Updates

The Michigan Fire Service Directory is constantly being updated with fire department information. You may check your department's information at: [Michigan Fire Service Directory](#).

To update your department's information you must complete the [Fire Service Directory Update Form](#). This form can be found on the Bureau website under the link Frequently Used Forms. You may submit the form by fax to 517-332-1427, or by e-mail to [nfirs@michigan.gov](mailto:nfirs@michigan.gov), or mail to Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing, MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help to keep the most accurate information in the directory.

## STORAGE TANK DIVISION

### Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) Inspector Territories & Process Improvements

On October 1, 2014, the Storage Tank Division (STD) implemented [new inspector territories](#) and added a new compliance inspection process for aboveground storage tanks.

The new inspector territories have been realigned for the hazardous materials storage inspectors (HMSI) by county to ensure inspections are timely met per the statutory requirements.

The new tank certification of compliance has been implemented in the STD to include the following:

- This process would include affixing a sticker to above ground storage tanks/facilities during triennial, final installation or re-inspections to indicate they have been "certified" and in compliance with Public Act 207.
- The sticker will be placed on the tank near the fill location.
- At larger bulk facilities, the sticker will be placed on the fill riser and each certified tank.
- The sticker will include the month and year of the inspection and the certification is valid for three years from that inspection date.

At the end of the triennial (three years) cycle, the STD is confident that AST facilities will be up-to-date with compliance stickers, and the practice of filling non-certified tanks will be reduced or eliminated altogether.



# FIREWORKS PROGRAM

## FIREWORKS APPLICATIONS AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

In the FY15 CFRS fireworks application season there have been 156 certificates issued; 109 temporary facilities and 47 permanent facilities. Currently there are 786 pending applications, which are being processed daily as the submission of required documentation is received. From survey results the Bureau made process improvements to the fireworks application process to allow for greater efficiencies for the fireworks customers we serve which would include:

- The tracking of CFRS applications can be done quicker
- The fireworks application is captured electronically and has been made available electronically
- The creation of a paperless application review process

# FIRE SERVICE IN THE NEWS

## Walker Fire Dept. Station #2 Hosts Operation Save a Life

Operation Save a Life (OSAL) was the focus at Walker Fire Department Station #2 in Grand Rapids on April 2, 2015, when WOOD/WOTV came to shoot a fire safety show. Firefighters from five West Michigan counties talked about home fire safety and how they're installing smoke alarms in area homes through OSAL. The half-hour show "Where you Live" will air on WOTV ABC 4 (Ch. 41), on April 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.



In March, WOTV 4 Women and Kidde and E.S.C.A.P.E Fire Safety partnered together to launch Operation Save a Life -- a public service campaign designed to educate West Michigan residents and raise awareness about the dangers of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Kidde donated 2,500 smoke alarms and 500 carbon monoxide alarms for installation by participating fire departments in high-risk areas throughout West Michigan.

The show will highlight interviews with State Fire Marshal Richard Miller who emphasized the importance of developing partnerships for effective fire education and prevention programs, noting the statewide Michigan S.A.F.E. (Smoke Alarms for Everyone) program that launched statewide last June. Olivet Fire Dept. Lt. Michael McLeieer and OSAL program coordinator opened the show with the WOOD/WOTV host Maranda, the station's Children and Family Services manager.



Fire departments who are a part of Michigan S.A.F.E. and Operation Save A Life are: Allegan County-- Fennville Area FD, Saugatuck Area Fire District, Graafschap Fire & Rescue, Salem Township Fire, Dorr Township Fire; Branch County-- Coldwater FD; Calhoun County-- Battle Creek FD; Kent County-- Allendale FD, Grand Rapids FD, Walker FD; Muskegon County-- Muskegon Charter Township FD and Norton Shores FD.



Two third grade classes from Zinser Elementary School in Kenowa Hills made a special field trip to learn about fire safety and smoke alarms, get an up-close look at all the fire apparatus and meet Jake the Fire Safety dog!

Special thanks to Walker Fire Chief Bob Walker for hosting the event and representatives from the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Red Cross who also attended.





## Staying Warm While Staying Safe

That extra heating equipment you're using to stay warm this winter is the 2nd leading cause of recent fires. For more information on the story: <http://www.wilx.com/home/headlines/Staying-Warm-While-Staying-Safe--293052731.html>



## Free Smoke Detector Initiative Kicks Off in Muskegon County; All Homeowners Eligible

MUSKEGON TOWNSHIP, MI – Fire officials countywide are participating in a free smoke detector initiative launching today, April 2, which aims to secure homes Muskegon Countywide from deadly fire situations.

Muskegon County ranks No. 2 for number of fatal fires in Michigan so far this year. To read more on this article:



[http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2015/04/free\\_smoke\\_detector\\_initiative.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2015/04/free_smoke_detector_initiative.html)

# OTHER NEWS

## Arson Reward Program

In the early 1970s, it was recognized that in order to effectively combat the crime of arson, there needed to be a concerted effort by dedicated individuals to form a committee to study and recommend measures to eliminate this deadly and costly crime. Out of this vision, the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee was formed in 1973 with its goal to identify and assist in the investigation and prosecution of arson.

The Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (MAPC) is the state's front-line task force against the crime of arson. It is a diverse group of concerned and dedicated individuals with a strong commitment toward reducing the arson problem in this state. The committee is comprised of representatives from both public and private sectors and is divided into six subcommittees: Arson Control, Education, Government Resources, Juvenile Affairs, Membership and the Public Awareness. The Arson Reward Program is housed within the Arson Control Subcommittee and offers up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of anyone on arson and/or arson related charges.



The first reward was given out in 1975 for \$500. Since its inception in 1975 through 2014, Arson Control has received 897 requests for awards resulting in 724 awards for a total of \$849,750. These tips resulted in the arrest of 1,253 arsonists.

In the year 2014 alone, MAPC received an additional 12 reward requests from tipsters who provided information that resulted in 14 arrests for arson or arson related crimes. As a result of these tips, \$23,500 was paid to the witnesses.

The Michigan Arson Reward Program has a toll free number (1-800-44ARSON) that is monitored and answered at the Michigan State Police Operations Desk 24 hours a day/7days a week. Tips can also be emailed by going to the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee website [www.miarsonprevention.org](http://www.miarsonprevention.org) and downloading the tip reward form.

The Arson Control Reward Program has the following objectives:

1. Encourage persons and/or reluctant witnesses with information regarding an arson to report it to "Arson Control" or investigating authorities.
2. To act as a deterrent to prevent arson.
3. To consider requests for monetary rewards of up to \$5,000 to individual cases where the reward program was instrumental in gaining important information that led to the arrest and/or conviction of an individual on arson-related charges.

In addition, the Arson Control Reward Program has the following guidelines:

1. No individual has the right or authority to promise a reward to any person providing information.
2. Requests for rewards may only be submitted by persons authorized to investigate fires. Such requests shall be made on the form (AC-1) prescribed and furnished by the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee.
3. Anyone who provides information may do so anonymously.
4. Rewards may be payable to persons who furnish information leading to the arrests and/or conviction of a person(s) on arson-related charges.
5. The arrests and/or conviction must be an arson-related crime committed within the geographical boundaries of the state of Michigan.
6. Those ineligible to receive rewards are: law enforcement officials, fire service personnel, insurance industry employees, private investigators, participants in the fire and/or related incident, victims of the fire, and immediate family of those listed.
7. The following factors may be considered by the Committee in their reward deliberations:
  - Degree of cooperation by the person providing information.
  - Personal risk to the person providing information.
  - Nature of the loss or potential loss.
  - Deterrent effect reward payment might have on the arson problem in the area of the fire.
  - Other factors at the discretion of the Committee.
8. The Arson Control Subcommittee of the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee shall have the final authority on all reward requests.

The Arson Control Program works because of the dedicated investigators who use it. Up to \$5,000 may be awarded for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of anyone on arson or arson-related charges. Posters are provided free of charge to promote awareness of the reward program. These posters should be displayed at fire scenes only when the fire has been determined to be arson. To order your supply of the posters, please write to: Arson Control at 3245 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48207 or email James LaBuhn at [jameslabuhn@comcast.net](mailto:jameslabuhn@comcast.net) or email to: [jameslabuhn@comcast.net](mailto:jameslabuhn@comcast.net).



## Updated ICC Information

The International Code Council is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Please follow the links below for information on the following:

- [ICC 2015 Committee Action Hearings - Group A Codes](#)
- [Expanded Training Options](#)
- [Membership Benefits](#)

For more information on ICC you can access their website at: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)



## 2015 NFPA Educational Messages Desk Reference Released

The National Fire Protection Association has released the 2015 edition of the Educational Messages Desk Reference. To download this free resource, please visit [www.nfpa.org/emacs](http://www.nfpa.org/emacs). The intent of the Educational Messages Desk Reference is to provide NFPA, fire department public educators, and other fire safety advocates with a guide for the presenting of accurate, standardized and consistent language when offering fire and life safety messages to the general public.

The messages are used throughout NFPA's educational programs, curricula, and handouts. When applicable, the messages are made consistent with NFPA's codes, standards, and related criteria.

There are 18 chapters which cover different fire topics. Each topic area is self-contained and written so that all the information needed on a certain subject is provided within that category. As a result, some messaging may be repeated throughout topic areas.

Other fire related articles on the NFPA website which can be linked to directly are:

- [Partnership announces inaugural wildfire mitigation awardees](#)
- [Research + Analysis newsletter](#)
- [Four new sponsors for the Suppression, Detection and Signaling Research and Applications Symposium](#) (SupDeT), March 3-6, in Orlando: Gentex, Reliable , Victaulic and Tyco
- [30 Candidates vie for Research Foundation Medal](#)
- [Video on heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire deaths](#). Fortunately, the vast majority of home heating fires can be prevented by following some simple steps and guidelines.

- [The Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year discusses benefits of applying for the award](#)



## Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs 2015 Fall Leadership Conference, Grand Traverse Resort October 20-22, 2015

For more information on conference details, you may visit their website at: [www.michiefs.org](http://www.michiefs.org)



## MABAS Interstate Mutual Aid Agreement - March 2015

The Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MI-MABAS) continues to grow. In addition to the existing 17 divisions that have been formed, three new divisions are in the formative stages which will bring MABAS membership to more than 325 fire departments across the state.

Gov. Snyder recently signed the first Interstate Mutual Aid agreement for the Michigan fire service, pursuant to the Michigan Urban Cooperation Act. The Urban Cooperation Act enables local governments in Michigan to enter into mutual aid pacts with local governments in other states. The City of Niles (MABAS Division 3501) entered into an agreement with Clay Fire Territory, Indiana (MABAS Division 201) to provide mutual aid based on MABAS box alarm cards.

In addition, [PA 459 of 2012](#), the Interstate Mutual Aid Emergency Aid Act which became effective December 27, 2012, provides that licenses and credentials transfer across state lines during a day-to-day mutual aid response. Historically, licenses and credentials only transferred during a gubernatorial disaster or emergency declaration. Several years ago Illinois MABAS convened a group called the Mid-America Mutual Aid Consortium (MAMA-C) to address interstate mutual aid on a day-to-day basis. MAMA-C drafted model legislation that could be enacted by the state legislatures to authorize the transfer of licenses and credentials for day to day mutual aid across state lines without a disaster declaration. The legislation was introduced in several area states and has become law in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky.



Pictured above: Niles, MI Fire Chief Larry Lamb & Clay Fire Territory, IN Asst. Fire Chief Keith Kwieran congratulating each other on the border between Michigan and Indiana

The MABAS Special Operations Committee has been:

- Implementing validation procedures for Special Operations teams in Michigan
- Developing a strategic plan to have Michigan Task Force 1 become FEMA EMAP validated.
- Creating a team typing model for both HMRT and TRT teams for a validation process that would assist these Special Operations teams in meeting FEMA modeled resource typing requirements.

For more information on MABAS please contact Chief Bill Nelson, MI-MABAS President at [nelsonws@troymt.gov](mailto:nelsonws@troymt.gov) or 248-524-3420.





## Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)

Please refer to the following links on information pertaining to:

- [Congress Approves Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Funding Bill](#)
- [The National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium, April 15-16, 2015](#)

For more information you may visit the website at: <http://www.cfsi.org/>

## XL GAP Research Update – Counterfeit Sprinklers

The approvals agencies, Underwriters Laboratories and FM Approvals, are constantly watching out for counterfeit items with their label or stamp on them. Both agencies publish notices when they discover counterfeit equipment. While most of the counterfeit sprinklers were found in Asia, Middle East and Europe, the counterfeit sprinklers could be found all over the world. For more information on the counterfeit sprinkler article: [XL Gap Research Article on Counterfeit Sprinkler 2015](#).



## Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc. (“Kidde”) recalls the replacement of certain Kidde black plastic Zytel® nylon valve disposable fire extinguishers

Kidde announced to their retail customers a notice for replacement of certain disposable fire extinguishers because the extinguishers may not fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released. This recall involves Kidde ABC and BC-rated fire extinguishers manufactured between July 23, 2013 and October 15, 2014 and sold between August 2013 and November 2014. Details of the models can be found at: [www.Kidde.com](http://www.Kidde.com).



## Possible Fire Risk of Yellow Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) Not Properly Bonded/Grounded

The Bureau of Fire Services in cooperation with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, urges all home and business owners with structures constructed or renovated after 1989 with yellow CSST gas piping installed, to have the tubing checked by a licensed electrician for proper bonding and grounding. If CSST is not properly bonded to the existing grounding system, these homes and businesses may be a fire risk if there are direct or indirect lightning strikes on or near the structure.

Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is a flexible piping system used to supply natural gas and propane to furnaces, water heaters and other gas appliances in residential, commercial and industrial structures. Standard CSST is coated with a yellow exterior plastic coating. This yellow CSST should not be confused with the flexible gas appliance connectors used in many homes.

If lightning strikes on or near a structure, it has been shown to cause an electrical surge that travels through the home's gas piping system and in some cases perforates the sidewall of the tubing as the energy arcs from one metallic system to another seeking ground. The gas leaking from the perforation can ignite and may cause a significant fire.

Since 2006, manufacturer's instructions have required direct bonding and grounding of yellow CSST in new installations. A bonding connection installed on a gas piping system, as with any metallic system within a house, will reduce the likelihood of electrical arcing to or from other bonded metallic systems in the home, reducing the likelihood of arc-induced damage.

Although previous installations of yellow CSST may have been installed in compliance with code requirements at the time of installation, it is recommended that these systems be checked for proper bonding to meet the current local building codes and/or manufacturer's installation instructions.

For more information, please visit [www.csstsafety.com](http://www.csstsafety.com).

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information photos and comments – your input is important. If you would like to submit articles for the Michigan Fire Service Connection on upcoming events, best practices, awards, you may submit them via e-mail no later than **Monday, June 1, 2015**, to Julie Sworden at [swordenj@michigan.gov](mailto:swordenj@michigan.gov) and Hollie Metts at [mettsh@michigan.gov](mailto:mettsh@michigan.gov). Please be advised that all articles will be prior approved by the State Fire Marshal. All articles published must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.



For additional information about the BFS and to subscribe or unsubscribe to the Michigan Fire Service Connection go to:

[BFS Newsletter Subscription](#)

LARA is an equal opportunity employer

